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Daily Press Office. 8th February, 1882.

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HONGKONG DISPENSARY. 28

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The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, JULY 11TH, 1882.

It has been said that "where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," and seldom is the truth of the adage better exemplified than in the case of our everyday relations with the Chinese in this colony, and, in fact, in every place where Europeans and Chinese happen to be thrown together, without the protection of Chinese assumption and conceit which a familiarity with their language and customs affords to the more confiding European. Chinese rules of etiquette are as elaborate as they are strict, and, being based on the broad principles of true consideration and courtesy, they have made of the Chinese a really courteous people. This is as far as they themselves are concerned. But let John Chinaman come once into contact with the "outer barbarian" who is presumed to be out of the pale of a heaven-born civilization, and consequently ignorant of the common usages of celestial society, and his true nature asserts itself. He becomes rude and arrogant to offensiveness, and cares not a jot how far he insults even a long-tried master or a friend. This may appear strong language; but any one, who will take the trouble to keep his eyes and ears open, will be struck with its truth at every turn in Hongkong streets and houses. Let a European, for instance, enter one of the many curiosity shops in Queen's Road to make a purchase. He walks into the anteroom and finds one half-naked Chinese sitting behind the counter fanning himself, and half a dozen others in similar *dashikis* squatting at the inner end of the room smoking. The visitor is accosted, perhaps, by "What thing wanchee" in very polite tones, but no one rises to greet him, and no seat is offered. Whilst making his bargains, could his ears be opened, he would probably hear a conversation somewhat to the following effect: "What foreign devil is that? 'Oh

he is a French devil.' 'No! no! he is a red-haired devil, and look! there's his woman waiting outside in the chair, with two little imps in her lap. I know the coquies. They belong to the red-haired Hong of ao and so.' Possibly during the European visitor's stay, a Chinese friend of the same class as the shopman's will drop in. Up jumps the shopman, all smiles, and while he quickly does his jacket, he begs the visitor with sundry bows and gestures of welcome, to be seated, to have a smoke, a cup of tea, and so on, and on his departure sees him to the door with apologies of, "Sorry I have been so neglectful," "Pardon my want of courtesy," &c. The European says "Chin chin" and departs, quite unconscious of the fact that he has been otherwise than decently treated. The behaviour of servants is another example in point. In the majority of houses here (happily there are exceptions) the servants go about the rooms and wait at table in a style of dress, easy, it is true, as far as they themselves are concerned, but anything but complimentary to their masters; and a favourite trick of theirs is to stand with their arms akimbo, or loll against some article of furniture, whereas, with a Chinese employer, respect is shown not only in the costume worn, a long coat, but by the "stand" attitude of the domestic, whilst waiting his master's wants. The swagger into the room, cigar in mouth, with which dealers and brokers are apt to walk into merchants' offices, is another habit in which Chinamen indulge, and which should bring down instant rebuke on the head of the offender. Then as regards names. Many a highly prized comrade, who has been for years the trusted servant of an old established firm, is known as "Ah-ping," or "Ah-lok," as because may be, and his employers fondly believe that to be his real name. Nothing of the kind. A Chinaman, however respectable, is always hasty as to confide his true name to a foreigner, a feeling which no doubt arises partly from contempt of the foreigner, and partly from the astute desire to render identification difficult, should circumstances occur in which it may become an object. He consequently gives either a pretended name, or more frequently, what he would call his "childe name." And all these "Ah-pings," "Ah-loks," and what not, we call our servants by, are nothing more nor less than what "Bob," "Dick," or "Tom," would be with us in all their slang familiarity. The case becomes a sorry one where legal contracts and forms are concerned, and it would be well for our guardians of the law to bear in mind that a Chinese always has, like us, a *fung*, or surname, of one character, and a *men*, or name of two characters—sometimes, but rarely, one. The "Ah" is no name at all, but a mere prefix of no value whatever for purposes of identification. Reverse the case to the designation of the European by the Chinese, and the same fortunate meanness and want of candour shew itself. The European starts, we will say, a new firm or shop, and bids his "boy" display a notice thereof at the door, nicely mounted in gilt and lacquer. The wily Chinaman instantly busies himself to select the least complimentary characters he can find to represent his master's name phonetically, and the result, respondent perhaps in gilt and lacquer, is not such as the subject most interested would approve, could be read or write Chinese. Some years ago an official of this place, after having laboriously studied Chinese for some months, was moved with curiosity as to the rendering of his name in Chinese, when he discovered that he was by the significant appellation he was born of a little man of "shieh shirping." The idea tickled him so that he retained the name, and revenged himself when it at any misconduct of his boy, by utilising the expression somewhat in the sense of "Take that; I'll rile shrimp you, you rascal." The character for "shrimp," by the way, is a favourite phonetic with these Cantonese, when representing the European syllable "Hi" or "Har" or "Ar"—(verb, asp.). Vagaries of this sort are the more inexhaustable, because the Chinese language possesses an excellent vocabulary of characters for names, and they are themselves most particular in choosing felicitous expressions for designations of firms. A comrade who dubs his master's firm by some ridiculous or contemptuous term, such as "wretched profit" or "shrimp's tail," (we copy from life) will not scruple to post over his own door some where in the back of the house, some such denunciation as "glorious success," "happy abundance," "celestial virtue," and the like. The gratuitous application of Europeans' pejorative designations is much indulged in as regards titles of officials in the Colony. The Governor, or the General, or a Magistrate is not a dignitary of those several characters to a Chinese. How indeed can barbarians (they argue) be supposed to possess in the recognised sense of the term? In olden days the Co-Hong went far towards killing poor Lord NAPIER by obstinately denying his right to any title save "barbarian eye," and with pertinacious consistency, a coolie of to-day will pretend not to understand, unless Government House is called *Ping tzu*, or "soldier head," Head-quarter House *Ng ping tzu*, or "No. 2 soldier head," and the Supreme Court *Tu kuo*. It would tend much towards securing the entire Executive the respect due to their position, and a proper appreciation of their several functions, could a definite glossary of equivalents of official titles, civil, military, and naval, be published by authority, and the Chinese paramilitary ordered to abide thereby in all their conversation and dealings. The proclamations and notices emanating from the several bureaux, civil and military, would also be the better for a preliminary submission in the first instance to the correction of one competent Chinese translation department, and thus secure lucidity and uniformity of style, as well as avoid the many solecisms which now mark their composition. Much good has already been done in this way, since a knowledge of the language was made a sine quid non with certain officials, but much yet remains to be effected towards improving and systematizing the issue of official notices of all kinds. There is no reason, (to select one example) why the poor Parsee should not be allowed to have his name in the form "Bad Kader," a two-fathomed translation of the term *Hung Mo*. It is properly "red furred," as if the party spoken of were an animal

to be designated in an existing prominent Post Office notice by the Chinese nickname of "white heads," instead of by the proper national denomination of which with reason they are so proud. One of the grossest instances of rudeness (and with this we will close our list of indiscretions) is that offered to the fair sex. A servant, speaking of his European mistress never (we use the word advisedly) gives her the pretty and respectful title commonly applied amongst the Chinese to the lady of the house; but speaks of her as *Se lo p'ō*, a term not altogether complimentary to the master and certainly not to the lady. We may truly repeat, "where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise."

Our object in calling attention to these becoming the name of a severe fight among the Chinese. For about a year past, the police there have been aware of the existence of a secret society in Hongkong called the Sam-Hop Society. It is composed of men belonging to the different callings of barbers, carpenters, blacksmiths, stone cutters, stone junks, and coolies. Another numerous class of people in that vicinity are the salt smugglers, and it was upon this class of men that the Sam-Hop Society declared war. The feud was caused by the salt smugglers, injuring some of the police, and the master of the house, who was a member of the Sam-Hop Society, was beaten by a smuggler of a society man he found with his wife. Both men were brought before the Police Court and they were each fined a dollar for disorderly conduct. The police took up the cause of their master, and determined to wreak dire vengeance on the whole quantity of salt smugglers. For this purpose orders were given to all the police stations of the city to seize the salt smugglers of different districts. Warning had been given to the police of the Sam-Hop Society that they would be held responsible for any damage done to their property. The police, however, did not wait for a formal order, but seized the salt smugglers on the 5th June with over 1,000 mats, and on the first July two of the men were hawking some of the mats in the street when the defendant came up and said his master, whose name was Tok Kai, wanted a large quantity of mats, and they had better go to them at a low price. Some negotiations took place between the parties, and the defendant offered to pay a sum for the mats. The police, however, increased the order by six times. He said that his boat was going on the 9th July, and on that day the mats were all packed and taken on board a boat, the defendant remarking that he would pay them when the mats had been transferred. Having got the mats on board, he must have got out of the place at the back by a passage there was through. They at once went to a foreign house and told them to come with him. He took them to a foreign house and told them to wait outside while he went in and got the money. They stopped there for an hour, and when the defendant did not return, they went in and made inquiries, when they found that nothing was known of the defendant there, and he must have got out of the place at the back by a passage there was through. They at once went to a foreign house and told them to come with him. He took them to a foreign house and told them to wait outside while he went in and got the money. They stopped there for an hour, and when the defendant did not return, they went in and made inquiries, when they found that nothing was known of the defendant there, and he must have got out of the place at the back by a passage there was through. 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EXTRACTS.

A NUTSHELL NOVEL FOR A MINIATURE MUDIE.

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A feather,
A tiny talk,
A pleasant walk,
Together!

VOL. 2.
A little doubt,
A playful bout,
Capricious,
A merry mire,
A stolen kiss,
Delusions!

VOL. 3.
You ask mamma,
Consult papa,
With pleasure,
And both repeat,
The rash event,
At leisure!!!

J. ASHLER-SMUR.

LA BOXE.
"The serious study of the low kick is recommended especially to those who are of a certain age, or of low stature, or who labour under other disadvantages of form, such as fat or weakness." So observes M. Charleton in his "L'Art de la Boxe Francaise." A kinder advice to such persons would perhaps be to "keep out of it"; but area so it is worth while spending a little time in following up the observation. The low kick, when we find, is one of those most to be feared. It is easy, rapid, has great power, and distinguishes the adversary; but it may be M. Charleton tells us, it breaks the shin-bone when well delivered.

French boxing is, says this "professor," now all a natural art of defense for which every resource of the body ought to be brought into play, assisted by the invention. Arms and legs, fist, feet, and hand are all available, as in the straight fight there are no rules. (A French crowd lacks the fine English bent for "seeing fair play.") Each tries all he knows to best the other, and the victory sets the mous right. The English in their system of boxing have, it is true, brought the use of the arms and sets to perfection; but then they look on the legs and feet merely as a kind of springs to be used for advancing of the adversary or getting away from his blows. In the case, on the other hand, the Parisian rough makes the leg and foot the chief weapon, using the hands only for defense. Charles Lecour, "the creator of French boxing, conceived the greatest project of combining the two and produced that splendid Utopia, that supreme combination, French boxing. It is Duran the Elder that speaks in his "Filles, Lorettes et Courtisanes." Lecour is to England without telling them who he was, and took lessons as an ordinary pupil from Swift and Adams, "the two first boxers of London." (Was it he or Duerck that tried a kick at Owen Swift—the hardest hitter of the light weights as he used to be called—and was promptly awed by the leg, according to a legend, out of the ring?)

The heyday of French boxing was between 1845 and 1855, when Lecour and his brother Hubert gave public exhibitions in Paris at the Circus and Lebouef of Rouen, whose forte was singlestick, followed for several years in the Sale Mouton, afterwards turned into a restaurant. Hubert Lecour's "English blow with the fist" was terrible, and his low kick tremendous. There was Dacros, a house-painter, who gave lessons in sparring in his evenings, and was the only Frenchman who could stand up to English pugilists. Once, to everybody's astonishment, it was a draw between him and the celebrated Cribby, who had settled down in Paris. What has "Fistiana" to say to this? Ramond, a journeyman baker, was a public favourite until he was challenged and beaten by Vigneron, the man-cannon, whose height and colossal strength made him a formidable adversary, although he was awkward and wanted quickness. Charlement, a young soldier, was a pupil of his, and made his first appearance twenty years ago. Four years later he beat Hubert Lecour, and afterwards taught boxing and singlestick in many regiments of the French army. His master, Vigneron, having broken his back at Boulogne during the cannon trick, Charlement took his discharge and opened a gallery in the Latin Quarter of Paris. He now professes his noble art at Brussels, and he claims to have picked all that was best out of the methods of Lecour and Vigneron. As this new school is perfection, both the cauval and English boxing come in for hard knocks in this treatise. In the cauval, we are instructed, the guard was very low, the legs wide apart, the hands forward and open; and the fighting consisted merely of the low kick and the parry by seizing the assailant's foot. Chest and flank kicks were unknown, and there was no nearer approach to a fist-blow than an under-slap with the open hand to the opponent's nose when he leant very much forward. This was called giving a "muscette." When the cauval was part of a liberal education, fifty years ago, the professor most in vogue was one Michel Pisseur, who taught the Duke of Orleans and Lord Seymour. Count d'Alton Shear in the "Mémoires de Vicomte d'Audier" sketches life under the name of Cœusse, as a man of about thirty-six, with a leaden-coloured face marked with small-pox, knotty fingers as hard as wood, and long bony limbs whose rapid lousy motions recalled the arms of the old telegraphs. This man was the terror of the Comté, as they used to call the northern faubourgs of Paris, full of pot-houses and bad characters, where the Toms and Jerrys of the day, both French and English, resorted to "see life."

As to our own system of fist-fights, we have it on the authority of Duran that it is the *arts* of England. Charlement says it is more a trial of endurance than a display of skill. There is no counting of hits; he who can take most blows generally the winner. But the professor stands so far as to give some of the rules for the benefit of such of his pupils as do not care to have their ribs knocked in; and a passage quite rare in its intensity tells us that since French boxing has been invented "the perfidious fist of perfidious Albion need no longer be feared. That which the fists of the beaten of Waterloo could not formerly attain to, the foot now accomplishes—with a grace, an elegance, and a certainty which defy all comparison." Nor does this method trust to the feet alone; for the author warns his pupils that many English boxers lean so far back to avoid blows that the forward leg has no grip of the ground. In that case all the French boxer has to do is to duck and lay hold of that leg with one hand, while with the other he hits out at the face or the ribs; or, better still, he can seize the leg with both hands, and beat the enemy in the stomach with his head. We learn also that we have a second and quite separate division of our muscular science which is called *boxe spring*, in which padded gloves are worn; but the sport which is truly national is "la boxe simple."

All the mysteries of "la boxe francaise" are exhibited in this treatise, in sixty-five very well drawn groups accompanied by plain and intelligible descriptions. There are five chief kicks and three fist-blows. The first kick is the low kick already named, of which there are three variations: the first dealt without moving from the spot, the second being thrown back to give equilibrium and greater force; the second in advancing; and the third

in getting away. Next comes the kick at the ribs or body, which is called horizontal and semi-circular, because the kicker twists half round on his left foot as it is given. Of this there are also the three variations. The third is a higher kick at the chest, which is also accompanied by a half-turn inward. Then comes the high face kick, which every one cannot give, for it requires great agility and suppleness of limb. It is necessary, too, to get nearer for it; and its danger is that it throws the kicker off his balance, and he has to recover with great swiftness to get all safe. Then there is the back kick, in which, with a rapid half-turn to the right and a crossing of the feet, the blow is given sideways with the sole of the left foot. Lastly, there is the somewhat similar kick with the right foot, delivered by spinning the body quite round on the left heel, which requires a good balance and long practice. There are, of course, parries to all these. To avoid the low kick, the forward leg aimed at is either lifted or drawn back. Or there are the high stop-kicks at the body with the threatened leg, which are the counters recommended by the professor to fist-blows aimed at the face. The third sort of parry is stooping and picking up the kicking leg with the left hand, putting it hard-ward, letting go, and simultaneously delivering a fist-blow in the face, which is almost certain to obtain a knock-down. The horizontal kick is parried with a blow of the fist on the shin-bone near the ankle, thus diverting the leg outwards; and at the same moment the defender must rush in and get well home with the fists. Or the kicking foot, if the right, is seized inside with the left hand turned outwards. To escape from this grip it is only necessary to throw the body back, wheel sharply to the right, and draw back the leg. "The strongest hand and wrist are powerless to prevent this movement." But the seizure with the left hand as described should follow up at once by clapping the right hand over the foot. At the same time a vigorous kick should be administered to the calf of the remaining leg of the adversary. This is almost certain, but before there is time to give this kick the man whose leg is caught should shorten it violently, thus drawing himself towards his antagonist, and hammer away with the fists at his undefended face and neck—finally using the improvised leg, if it still remain so, for a spasmodic kick in the body. This generally ends in liberation; but if all fails, he must throw himself rapidly on the ground on his hands, and with the free leg attack the opponent violently where he can. This is certain to succeed; but it leaves the defender on the ground in the second-best position, where there is no help but agility to get up and away.

Fist-blows are "an indispensable complement of French boxing," but there are only three: the straight hit at the face, guarded as with us; the blow at the ribs, which, vigorously dealt, "takes away the wind and is sufficient to knock a man out of time" (this is the blow for short men to employ); and the third is the horizontal semi-circular blow, which requires more skill than strength, given with a round inward swing of the right and "with the side of the fist" on the temple, ear, or lower jaw. This is said to be extremely formidable.

The best weight and weight for French boxing are about 5 ft. 6 in. and 11 stone. Over these figures, there is less quickness but greater advantage in the attack. Smaller men are more rapid, and better fitted for defense. For a set-to in "la boxe francaise" buff-leather padded slippers are required, as well as the ordinary boxing-gloves.

St. James's Gazette.

INSURANCES.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 3rd June, 1879. [1044]

NORTH GERMAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY AT HAMBURG.

CAPITAL (FULLY SUBSCRIBED), \$1,000,000.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LUDWIG ON, Esq., President.

YU CHUNG PENG, Esq.

CHAN LI CHOU, Esq.

Q. H. CHU CHU, Esq.

Hongkong, 27th March, 1879. [13]

THE COMPANY GRANTS POLICIES ON MARINE RISKS IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD, PAYABLE ON ANY OF ITS AGENTS.

CONTRIBUTORS—Dividends are payable to all Contributors of Business, whether they are Shareholders or not.

WOO LIN YUEN, Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE—No. 2, Queen's Road West, Hongkong, 14th March, 1881. [1511]

LONDON & STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, HITHERTO CALLED THE STAFFORDSHIRE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL, TWO MILLIONS STELLING.

The Undersigned are prepared to ISSUE POLICIES covering FIRE RISKS at current rates.

ADAMSON, BELL & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 27th August, 1881. [1405]

THE IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Agents.

Hongkong, 4th May, 1881. [847]

The Undersigned, Agents for the above Company, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES against FIRE to the extent of \$600,000 on any one—

FIRST-CLASS RISK.

RATES ON FIRST-CLASS GODOWNS REDUCED TO 1 PER CENT. NETT PER ANNUM FROM THIS DATE.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO., Agents.

Imperial Fire Insurance Company.

Hongkong, 9th May, 1881. [22]

YANG TANG SZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.

CAPITAL (Fully Paid-up), Tls. 426,000.00

PERMANENT RESERVE, Tls. 270,000.00

SPECIAL RESERVE, Tls. 290,555.35

TOTAL CAPITAL and ACCUMULATIONS, Gls. 1,940,553.35 April, 1882. [22]

DIRECTORS.

H. DE C. FORBES, Esq., Chairman.

J. H. PINCKNEY, Esq., W. M. MEYERINK, Esq.

A. J. M. INVERARAY, G. H. WHEELER, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE—SHANGHAI.

Messrs. RUSSELL & CO., Secretaries.

LONDON BRANCH.

Messrs. BAILING BROTHERS & CO., Bankers.

RICHARD BLACKWELL, Esq., Agent.

68 and 69, Cornwall, E.C.

Portion of granted on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World.

Subject to a charge of 12% for Interest on Shareholders' Capital, all the Profits of the UNDERWRITING BUSINESS are annually distributed among all Contributors of Business (whether Shareholders or not) in proportion to the premium paid by them.

RUSSELL & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 8th May, 1882. [12]

THE CITY OF LONDON FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL—\$2,000,000.—PAID UP—\$200,000.

PAID UP RESERVE FUND—\$250,000.

PAID UP RESERVE FUND—\$250,000.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE at Current Rates.

GEO. R. STEVENS & CO.

Hongkong, 1st July, 1881. [20]

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

IS prepared to ACCEPT FIRST-CLASS RISKS at the above Company, to the extent of \$50,000 on First-class Risks.

JAS. B. COUGHTRIE, Secretary.

Hongkong, 27th March, 1882. [16]

SUN FIRE OFFICE.

The Undersigned are prepared from this date to GRANT POLICIES against FIRE to the extent of \$50,000 on First-class Risks.

LINSTEAD & DAVIS, Agents.

Hongkong, 12th May, 1881. [17]

THE PHENIX FIRE OFFICE.

The Undersigned are prepared to GRANT POLICIES of INSURANCE against FIRE at the following Rates:

DOUGLAS LAPRAK & CO., Agents for PAULUS FIRE CO.

Hongkong, 5th August, 1881. [19]

THE LONDON ASSURANCE COMPANY, INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE THE FIRST.

AD. 1720.

THE Undersigned have been appointed Agents for the above Corporation, are prepared to grant Insurances as follows:

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Policies at current rates, payable either here, in London, or at the principal Ports of India, China, and Australia.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Policies issued for sums not exceeding £5,000, at reduced rates.

HOLLIDAY, WISE & CO.

Hongkong, 24th July, 1872. [15]

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Undersigned, as Agents for the above Company, are prepared from this date to GRANT POLICIES upon First-class Risks to the extent of £10,000, at the Reduced Tariff Rates.

DOUGLAS LAPRAK & CO.

Hongkong, 11th May, 1881. [18]

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 3rd June, 1879. [1044]

SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY, FIRE AND LIFE.

INSURANCES.

THE SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY AT HONGKONG.

CAPITAL (FULLY SUBSCRIBED), \$1,000,000.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ARNOLD, KARBERG & CO.

Hongkong, 4th September, 1879. [1457]

THE COMPANY GRANTS POLICIES ON MARINE RISKS IN ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD, PAYABLE ON ANY OF ITS AGENTS.